

ANCHORED IN CHRIST

Living Faithfully In Every Season

SEPTEMBER 2026 • LESSON 9



LOVE & FORGIVENESS

Embracing God's love and extending forgiveness to others

SEPTEMBER 8 | God's Love as Our Foundation | 1 John 4:19

SEPTEMBER 15 | The Power of Forgiveness | Colossians 3:13

SEPTEMBER 22 | Kindness & Compassion in Action | Ephesians 4:32

SEPTEMBER 29 | Living a Lifestyle of Love & Forgiveness | 1 Corinthians 13:4

Why Love and Forgiveness Matters...

- ✓ **They Strengthen Relationships**
- ✓ **They Reflect God's Character**
- ✓ **They Bring Inner Peace**

SEPTEMBER 8

GOD'S LOVE AS OUR FOUNDATION

1 John 4:19

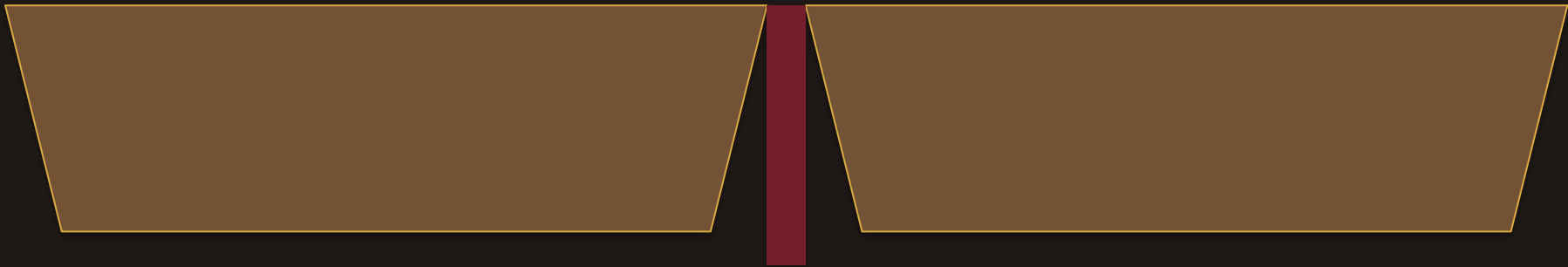


Anchored In Christ: Living Faithfully In Every Season

1 John 4:19

“We love Him because He first loved us.”

LOVE STARTS WITH GOD.



**Our love for God is always a response –
not the cause – of His love for me**



What This Teaches Us – Theological Meaning

1

God always takes the first step.

2

Our love is a response to grace.

3

God's love transforms relationships.

4

Love is evidence of genuine faith.

How Do We Live This?

Faith becomes visible through daily choices.

- ✓ **Live in gratitude**
- ✓ **Love others as God loves us**
- ✓ **Rest in God's initiative**
- ✓ **Share God's love**

Let's Talk About It

- 1. How have you experienced God's love personally?**
- 2. Who needs to feel that same love through you?**



DON'T JUST HEAR IT. LIVE IT.

**Let God's love flow through you to
someone who needs encouragement,
forgiveness, or kindness.**



THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

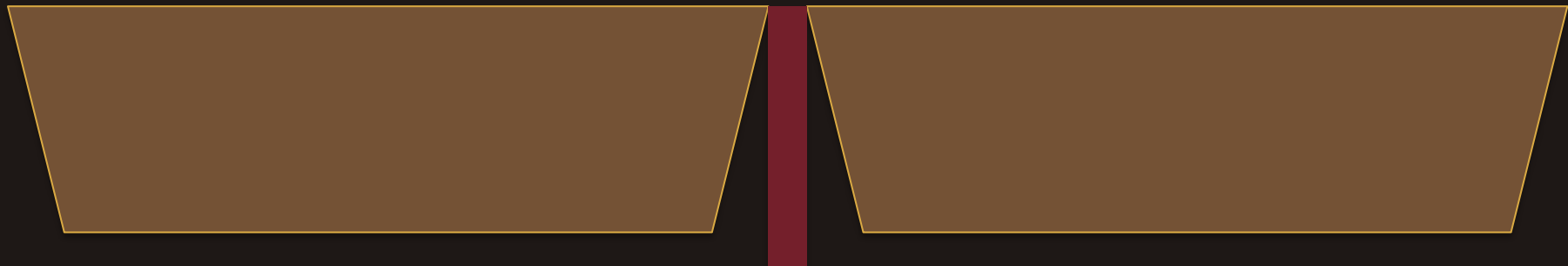
Colossians 3:13



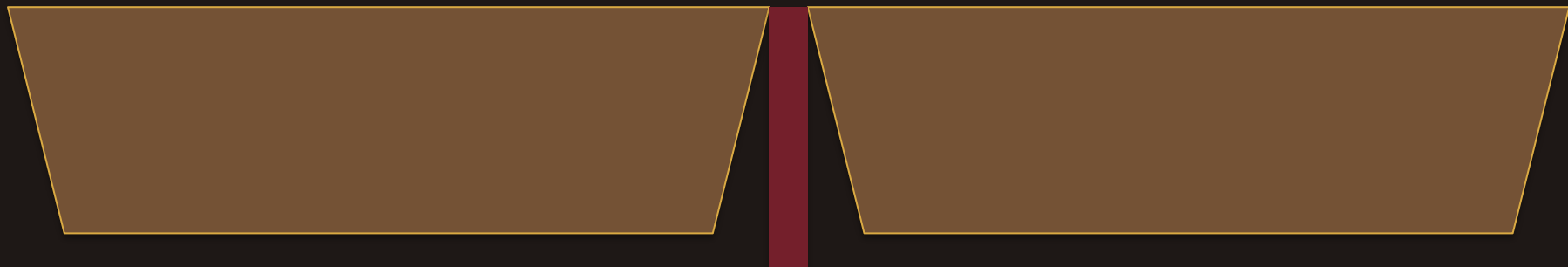
Colossians 3:13

“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

FORGIVENESS IS SPIRITUAL STRENGTH.



**Jesus Christ is supreme over all
creation and completely sufficient
for salvation and Christian life.**



Virtues - Define God's people

✓ **Compassion**

✓ **Kindness**

✓ **Humility**

✓ **Gentleness**

✓ **Patience**

✓ **Forbearance**

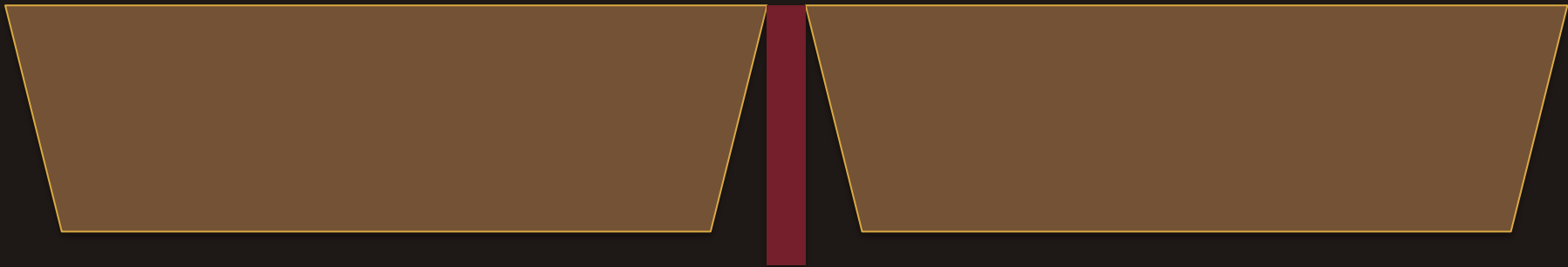
✓ **Forgiveness**

✓ **Love**

“bear with one another”



How Christ has forgiven us



What This Teaches Us – Theological Meaning

1 Forgiveness is a command—not merely a feeling.

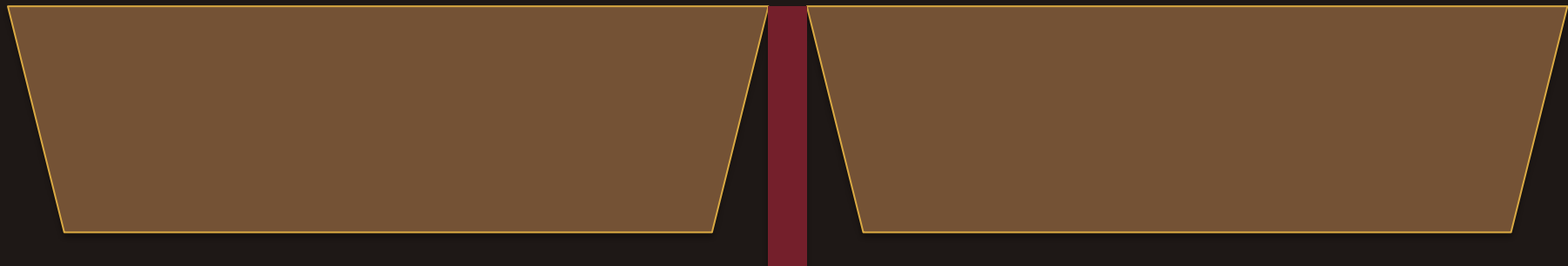
2 God's forgiveness is our pattern.

What This Teaches Us – Theological Meaning

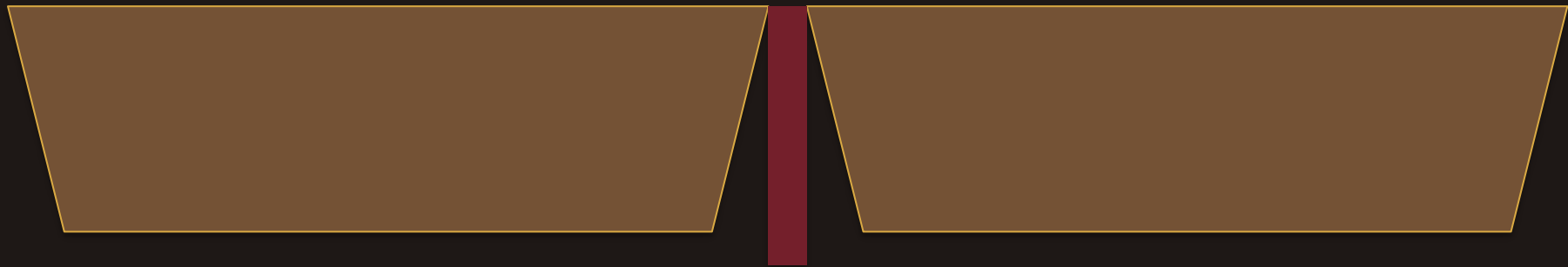
3 Christian community requires patience.

4 Forgiveness reflects the Gospel.

Connection to Love and Forgiveness.



“Love and Forgiveness – Embracing God’s Love and Extending Forgiveness to Others.”



“bear with one another”



Spiritual Application...

Faith becomes visible through daily choices.

- ✓ **Practicing patience**
- ✓ **Choosing forgiveness**
- ✓ **Forgiveness frees you**
- ✓ **Forgiveness breaks spiritual chains**

Spiritual Application ...

Faith becomes visible through daily choices.

- ✓ **Forgiveness restores relationships**
- ✓ **Forgiveness reflects God's character**
- ✓ **Forgiveness strengthens your spiritual maturity**



Unforgiveness is drinking poison and expecting someone else to die.

- ✓ **Reflecting Christ**
- ✓ **Breaking bitterness**



BETRAYAL

ANGER

REJECTION

HURT

RESENTMENT

**Forgiveness is not simply an action;
it is a lifestyle shaped by grace.**



Let's Talk About It

1. Why is forgiveness sometimes difficult?

2. What does it mean to forgive “as the Lord forgave you”?

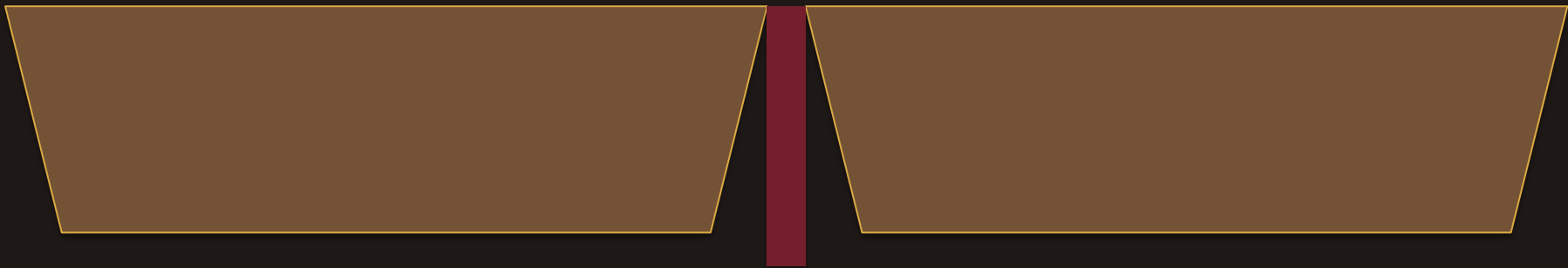
DON'T JUST HEAR IT. LIVE IT.

Take one step toward forgiveness this week: pray, write, or have a healing conversation.



KINDNESS & COMPASSION IN ACTION

Ephesians 4:32



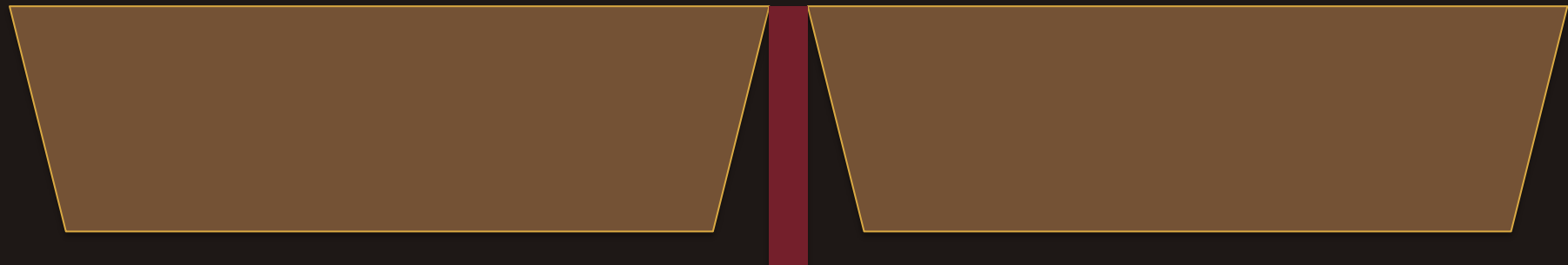
Ephesians 4:32

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Behaviors

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Falsehood | ✓ Bitterness |
| ✓ Uncontrolled anger | ✓ Rage |
| ✓ Stealing | ✓ Malice |
| ✓ Corrupt speech | ✓ Slander |

**GRACE SHOULD BECOME
VISIBLE.**



What This Teaches Us – Theological Meaning

1

Kindness reflects God's character.

2

Compassion comes from a transformed heart.

What This Teaches Us – Theological Meaning

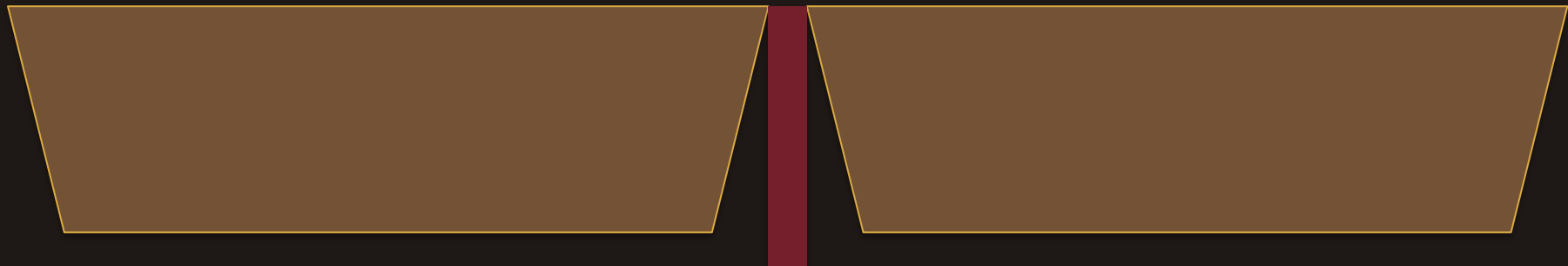
3

Forgiveness is rooted in the Gospel.

4

Christian living is Christ-centered.

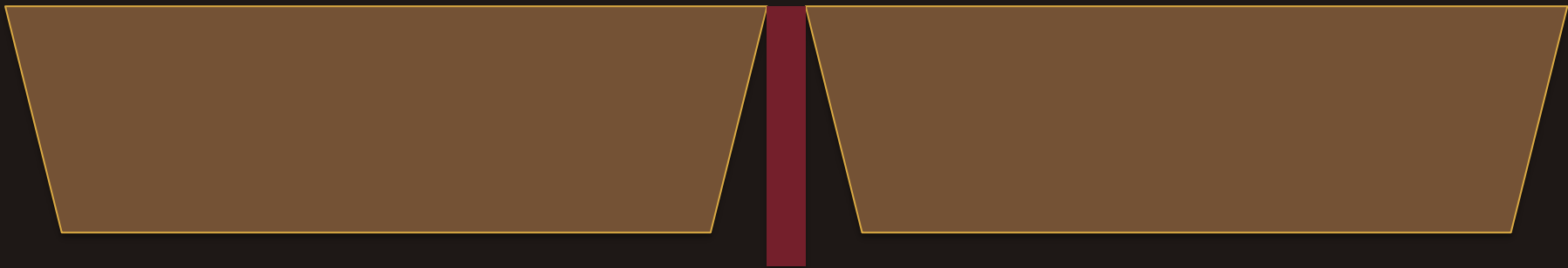
Connection to Love and Forgiveness.



Connection to Love and Forgiveness

- ✓ **Kindness**
- ✓ **Compassion**
- ✓ **Forgiveness**

“Love and Forgiveness – Embracing God’s Love and Extending Forgiveness to Others.”



Spiritual Application ...



Kindness in practice –

- **Choose gentle words**

Spiritual Application ...

- ✓ **Compassion in practice –**
 - **Slow down and really see people**
 - **Listen with Empathy**

Spiritual Application ...

- ✓ **Forgiveness in practice –**
 - **Practice intentional compassion**



Let's Talk About It

1. Who in your life needs compassion right now?

2. How can you show kindness even when it's hard?

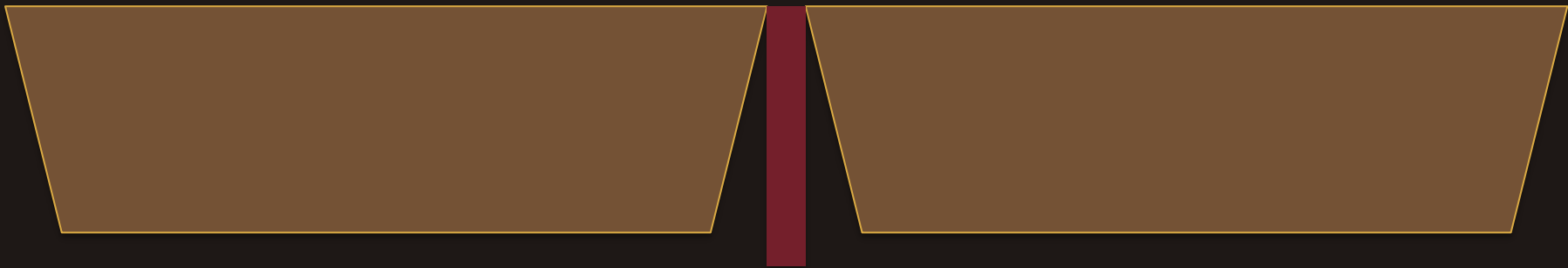
DON'T JUST HEAR IT. LIVE IT.

Practice one intentional act of compassion this week—especially toward someone difficult to love.

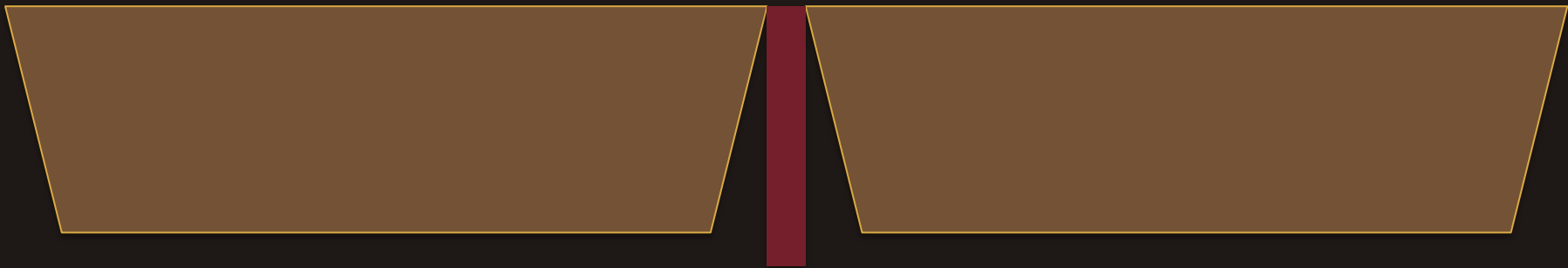


LIVING A LIFESTYLE OF LOVE & FORGIVENESS

1 Corinthians 13:4



**LOVE IS NOT JUST SPOKEN—
IT IS LIVED.**



Ephesians 4:32

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”



WATER

GASOLINE

1 Corinthians 13:4

“Love is patient, love is kind...”

Corinthian church faced numerous problems:

- ✓ **Divisions & favoritism among believers**
- ✓ **Sexual immorality**
- ✓ **Lawsuits among Christians**
- ✓ **Misuse of Christian freedom**

Corinthian church faced numerous problems:

- ✓ **Disorder in worship**
- ✓ **Confusion about the Lord's Supper**
- ✓ **Pride concerning spiritual gifts**

“The Love Chapter”

Spiritual Gifts



Love is superior to every spiritual gift

- 12 **Diversity of spiritual gifts**
- 13 **Love is the indispensable foundation**
- 14 **Gifts should function orderly & lovingly in worship**

Meaning of 1 Corinthians 13:4

1

Love is patient.

Meaning of 1 Corinthians 13:4

2

Love is kind.

What This Teaches Us

Love is not:

- **It does not envy**
- **It does not boast**
- **It is not arrogant or proud**

What This Teaches Us – Theological Meaning

1

Love reflects God's own character.

2

Love is a choice expressed through action.

What This Teaches Us – Theological Meaning

3

Love values others above self.

4

Spiritual maturity is measured by love.

Biblical Interpretation...

Love as an action – agape love

“Love is patient, love is kind,”

Biblical Interpretation...

Patience - longsuffering

Biblical Interpretation...

Kindness – active goodness

Biblical Interpretation...

**Love is the true measure of
spiritual life.**

Spiritual Application ...

Faith becomes visible through daily choices.

- ✓ **Patience - Slow down your reactions**
- ✓ **Give others room to grow**
- ✓ **Kindness - Choose words that heal**
- ✓ **Become a peacemaker**



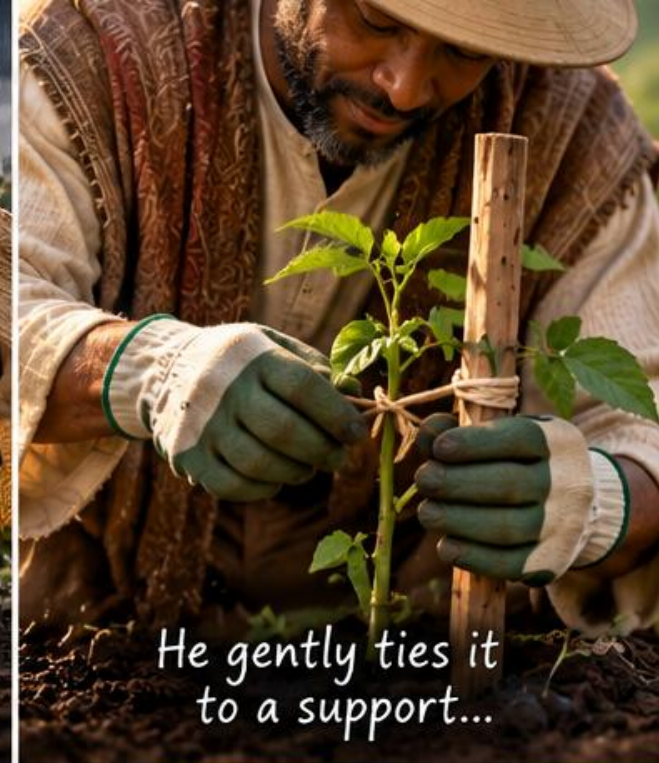
Sometimes
it bends...



He patiently waters it...



He shields it
from harsh weather...



He gently ties it
to a support...



Sometimes



And over time



With patience, care,

Key Concepts:

- **Love strengthens relationships**
- **Forgiveness reflects God's grace**
- **Both bring inner peace and freedom**

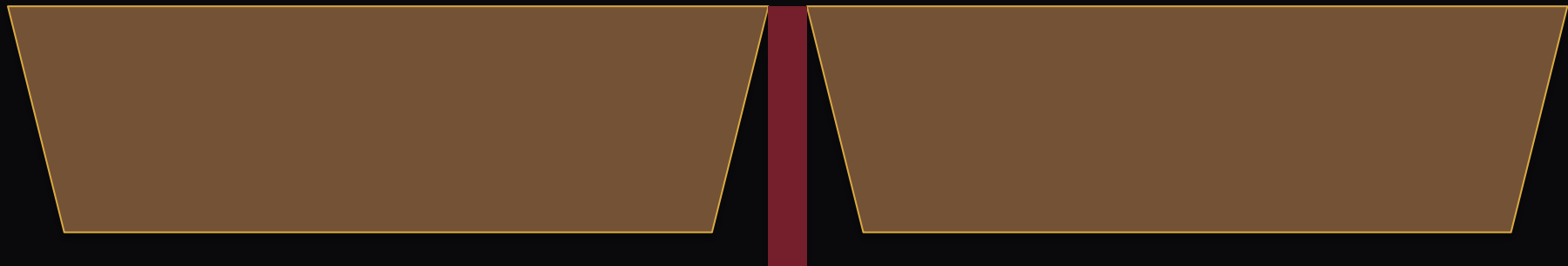
Let's Talk About It

1. What habits can help you live a life of love and forgiveness?

2. How can you be a peacemaker in your relationships?

DON'T JUST HEAR IT. LIVE IT.

**Create a personal Love & Forgiveness
Plan with three daily commitments.**



**WE LOVE BECAUSE
HE FIRST LOVED US.**

Love deeply. Forgive freely. Walk in grace.

